

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 30-35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 13, 15, 16, 19-22, and 28 and include newly added claims 36-38

as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The tackle as claimed in claim 15,
said hook including a shaft portion, a barbed end spaced from the shaft portion, and a bend
disposed between the shaft portion and the barbed end.
3. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 2,
said clip including a jaw shiftably coupled relative to the shaft portion,
said jaw being shiftable into and out of a clamping position wherein the jaw is adapted to
clamp bait between the jaw and the shaft portion.
4. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 3,
said jaw being yieldably biased into the clamping position.
5. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 4,

said clip further including a spring received between the jaw and the shaft portion.

6. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 5,
said hook further including an eyelet adjacent said shaft portion,
said shaft portion being disposed between said eyelet and said bend,
said spring being positioned generally between said eyelet and said bend.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The tackle as claimed in claim 13,
said jaws being yieldably biased into the clamping position.

10. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 9,
said clip further including a spring coupled between the jaws and positioned generally
between the first and second jaw ends thereof.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) Fishing tackle comprising:
a fish hook; and
a bait-attachment clip fixed relative to the hook,

said clip including first and second jaws shiftably coupled together,
each of said jaws presenting corresponding first and second oppositely spaced jaw ends,
said jaws being shiftable relative to each other into and out of a clamping position wherein
the first jaw ends are adjacent one another and the second jaw ends are spaced from
one another,
said hook including an eyelet formed in one end thereof and an opposed barbed end spaced
from said eyelet,
said hook further including a shaft portion extending between said opposed ends,
said hook further including a first bend disposed between the barbed end and the shaft
portion and a second bend disposed between the shaft portion and the eyelet,
said second jaw end of said first jaw defining an aperture therein configured to be slidably
received over the barbed end of the hook and prevented from sliding over the eyelet,
said aperture being received on said second bend so that the first jaw is adjacent to and
extends generally parallel with the shaft portion of the hook; and
a flexible sleeve encirclingly received around the shaft portion and the first jaw end of the
first jaw to retain the first jaw in the generally parallel relationship with the shaft
portion,
said flexible sleeve endlessly encircling at least a portion of the hook and at least a portion
of the clip,
said flexible sleeve being formed from a non-metal material.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) Fishing tackle comprising:

a fish hook;

a bait-attachment clip fixed relative to the hook; and

coupling means for removably coupling the clip to the hook,

said coupling means including a flexible sleeve slidably received around at least a portion

of the hook and at least a portion of the clip,

said flexible sleeve endlessly encircling said at least a portion of the hook and said at least

a portion of the clip,

said flexible sleeve being formed from a non-metal material.

16. (Currently Amended) Fishing tackle for coupling a lure to a fishing line, said tackle comprising:

a fish hook operable to be coupled to the fishing line;

a clip removably coupled to the hook and including a first and a second jaw,

said first and second jaws being shiftable relative to each other into and out of a clamping

position wherein the jaws are adapted to hold the lure; and

a flexible sleeve received on the hook and slidable relative to the hook and at least one of the

jaws into a retention position wherein the flexible sleeve endlessly encircles at least

a portion of the hook and at least a portion of said at least one jaw to thereby
removably couple the clip to the hook,
said flexible sleeve being formed from a non-metal material.

17. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 16,
said jaws being yieldably biased into the clamping position.

18. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 17,
said clip including a spring disposed between said jaws for yieldably biasing the jaws into
the clamping position.

19. (Currently Amended) The tackle as claimed in claim 16,
said flexible sleeve comprising an elongated hollow cylinder.

20. (Currently Amended) The tackle as claimed in claim 19,
said flexible sleeve being formed of a ~~flexible~~ plastic material.

21. (Currently Amended) The tackle as claimed in claim 20,
said plastic material being substantially comprised of polyurethane.

22. (Currently Amended) The tackle as claimed in claim 16,

said at least one jaw being said first jaw,
said flexible sleeve generally preventing said first jaw from shifting relative to the hook and
the second jaw when the flexible sleeve is in the retention position.

23. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 22,
said hook including a shaft portion, a barbed end spaced from the shaft portion, and a bend
disposed between the shaft portion and the barbed end.

24. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 23,
said at least a portion of the hook comprising said shaft portion.

25. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 24,
said second jaw being positioned between said barbed end and said shaft portion when the
jaws are in the clamping position and the sleeve is in the retention position.

26. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 16,
said hook including an eyelet formed in one end thereof and an opposed barbed end spaced
from said eyelet,
said hook further including a shaft portion extending between said opposed ends,
said hook further including a first bend disposed between the barbed end and the shaft
portion and a second bend disposed between the shaft portion and the eyelet.

27. (Original) The tackle as claimed in claim 26,
said at least one jaw being said first jaw,
said first jaw including a first end and an opposite spaced second end,
said first jaw end defining an aperture therein configured to be slidably received over the
barbed end of the hook and prevented from sliding over the eyelet.

28. (Currently Amended) The tackle as claimed in claim 27,
said at least a portion of said first jaw being said second jaw end,
said aperture being received on said second bend when the flexible sleeve is in the retention
position so that the first jaw is adjacent to and extends generally parallel with the
shaft portion of the hook.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled) The method as claimed in claim 34,
step (b) being performed after step (a).

31. (Canceled) The method as claimed in claim 30;
(c) unclamping the first lure from the clip and removing the first lure from the clip; and
(d) after step (c), clamping a second lure in the clip.

32. (Canceled) The method as claimed in claim 34,
said first lure comprising live bait.

33. (Canceled) The method as claimed in claim 32; and
(c) coupling a portion of the first lure to the hook so that the first lure is secured to both
the clip and the hook.

34. (Canceled) A method of baiting a fishing hook comprising the steps of:
(a) coupling a lure-attachment clip to the hook; and
(b) clamping a first lure in the clip,
step (a) including the steps of coupling one end of the clip to the hook and then sliding a
flexible sleeve over the hook and over at least a portion of the other end of the clip
to thereby removably couple the clip to the hook.

35. (Canceled) The method as claimed in claim 34,
step (a) including the step shiftably coupling a clip jaw relative to the hook,
step (b) including the step of clamping the lure between the clip jaw and a portion of the
hook so that the lure is engagingly received between the jaw and the portion of the
hook.

36. (New) The tackle as claimed in claim 15,

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said flexible sleeve being formed of a plastic material.

37. (New) The tackle as claimed in claim 36,
said plastic material being substantially comprised of polyurethane.

38. (New) The tackle as claimed in claim 15,
said flexible sleeve being formed of a rubber material.